



Route 40 News

Summer 2005

Many projects have been initiated which will achieve the goals of the Route 40 Enhancement Study. The Department of Planning and Zoning hopes this news update will give you an overview of some recent activities in the Route 40 Corridor.

New Route 40 Project Manager

In February, the Department of Planning and Zoning hired Bill Mackey, AICP, as Planning Supervisor in the Division of Environmental and Community Planning. Bill will be taking on the responsibilities previously held by Steve Johns as the Route 40 project manager. Bill has degrees in architecture and planning from the University of Miami. Bill was a municipal planner and director of planning and zoning staff in the city of South Miami. He also worked as a regional planner in southern New Hampshire. Bill is currently involved in Route 40 implementation, including preparation of the Route 40 Manual. Feel free to give Bill a call at 410-313-4321 or wmackey@co.ho.md.us if you have any questions or concerns about the corridor; he looks forward to hearing from you.



Sidewalk connection completed!

Now you can take a stroll on the south side of Route 40 from the Crab Shanty (at Plumtree Drive) to McDonald's (North Chatham Road). The sidewalk connection was completed this past Spring. The Department of Public Works will continue to work with DPZ to identify other sidewalk connections and pedestrian crosswalks which could be implemented in the near future.

Partnership Planting Program coming to Route 40

DPZ staff have met with the State Highway Administration to discuss possibilities for a Partnership Planting Program for the Route 40 Corridor. Three sites were visited and include: I-70 (eastbound) at the Route 40 split, US 40 (westbound) at Ridge Road and the southside of US 40 at Coventry Court Drive (including possible screening at the SHA salt dome). Staff will work with SHA and community members over the next several months. Kwanzan Cherry trees, Howard County's "Blossoms of Hope," are one species which is being considered. We will keep you posted of any planting plans and hope to get some shovels in the ground this fall! Contact Jessica Ritter at 410-313-4364 or jritter@co.ho.md.us for more information.

Low Interest Loans for Route 40 Corridor

The Route 1 Below Prime Rate Loan Program has been such a success that one of the leading lending institutions, Citizens National Bank, decided to allocate \$25 million to the Route 40 Enhancement Area. The loans will be for businesses who would like to receive low interest loans to help enhance their property in keeping with the goals in the Route 40 Study. For more information contact Jeff Bowling (Economic Development Authority) at 410-313-6500 or jbowl@hceda.org.



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Environmental News

Howard County Government has received a grant from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources for \$40,000 to develop a watershed restoration action strategy (WRAS) for the Lower Patapsco River watershed. The Lower Patapsco River watershed is located in the northeastern portion of Howard County and includes parts of Ellicott City and Route 40 east of St. Johns Lane. A workshop was held in October 2004, so that residents, businesses and organizations in the watershed could learn about the watershed's history, current water quality and habitat conditions. A second workshop was held on June 28, 2005. That workshop presented results from chemical and biological water quality monitoring, as well as a list of priority projects identified from a stream corridor survey. As part of an implementation project, DPZ staff are considering holding a stream clean up next spring in the Sucker Branch which is just off Route 40 in the Normandy Shopping Area. Stay tuned! Contact Susan Overstreet at 410-313-2350 or soverstreet@co.ho.md.us for more information.

Enchanted Forest Update



KIMCO Realty, Inc., the owner of the Enchanted Forest Shopping Center, has graciously agreed to donate to Clark's Elioak Farm on Route 108 as many of the story book treasures as can be saved. Many of the items have already been transported to the farm including: Cinderella's Pumpkin Coach, Mother Goose and her gosling, the six mice that pulled Cinderella's Coach, Papa Bear, Jack (of Jack and Jill), Little Boy Blue, Rock-A-Bye Baby, the giant mushrooms, the bell-shaped flowers, two giant lollipops, a handful of gingerbread men, Giant Sombrero, the Little Red Schoolhouse, the Crooked House, Jack and the Beanstalk and the Easter Bunny's House. The next step is sanding, fiber glassing, priming and painting to restore these items to their former glory. As you can imagine this takes a lot of time, money and hard work. Volunteers and donations are always needed and appreciated. Please contact: nan@nanalee.com. Mark your calendars for the 50th Birthday Party for the Enchanted Forest on August 13-14, 2005. Clark's Elioak Farm will have a full weekend of family-oriented activities and entertainment to celebrate 50 years of the Enchanted Forest and its new life at the Farm.

Comprehensive Zoning "Comp Lite" Update

The County Council approved a bill with amendments to the Howard County Zoning Map on March 7, 2005. Several properties in the Route 40 corridor were affected. Text amendments were also part of the Comprehensive Zoning bill. However, a group of citizens have filed a petition to take the bill to referendum in the November 2006 general election. Now the voters will determine if the Comp Lite legislation will be approved or not. In the meantime, development that is dependent on either zoning map or text amendments in the bill may not proceed with development unless the owner petitions the Council and is approved for an individual zoning map or text amendment. For more information on the map and text amendments, please see the County's Web site at: <http://www.co.ho.md.us/DPZ/compzoning.htm>.

For more information on Route 40 activities, please check the Route 40 Web site at: <http://www.co.ho.md.us/DPZ/Community/route40.htm> . Please contact Jessica Ritter at 410-313-4364 or jritter@co.ho.md.us with questions or comments about the "Route 40 News Update" or if you would like to be added or removed from our contact list.